

The Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D.C. 20505

NIC #7854-83
1 November 1983

National Intelligence Council

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

THROUGH : Vice Chairman, National Intelligence Council

FROM : ;
National Intelligence Officer for Narcotics

SUBJECT : Drug Czar/Talking Points for Use with MacFarlane

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1. We should not concern ourselves so much with whether there is a drug czar as with what kind of a czar is proposed. Frank Zarb as energy czar in the Ford Administration created a focal point for public and Congressional attention, but he lacked power over other government departments. Such an arrangement could form the basis for a compromise under which Senator Biden gets his czar, but the concerned departments retain control over their operations and budgets.

2. As currently written, the Biden bill gives the czar the power to:

- direct and coordinate efforts to halt the flow of drugs;
- coordinate drug intelligence collection and dissemination;
- develop budgetary allocations;
- establish a Congressional-Executive Branch Commission to prepare yet another study on drugs.

3. If agreed upon without change in conference with the House, the Biden bill would clearly weaken the DCI's control of:

- the Intelligence Community budget;
- the collection of drug intelligence;
- the dissemination of drug intelligence.

More importantly, a precedent would be established that in later application could weaken DCI controls in other cross-cutting areas like terrorism, technology transfer, energy and the like.

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4. There is additionally the issue of a turf battle between Justice (Biden bill) and the Vice President's Office (House bill). If efforts at compromise founder and a czar with real powers is established, the Intelligence Community would probably fare better under Vice Presidential control. It would make less difference where a powerless czar sat, but the existing Cabinet Council chaired by the Attorney General is a logical place.

5. In addition to expressing our concerns to MacFarlane, it would be advisable for you or the Director to convey our views to Meese.

6. If signed unchanged, the Biden bill will associate Intelligence Community members -- principally CIA and NSA -- more closely with Law Enforcement Community members than is envisioned in E.O. 12333. In the long run, this could make it more difficult for the Intelligence Community to contribute information and analysis to the drug effort without becoming directly involved in law enforcement cases.



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